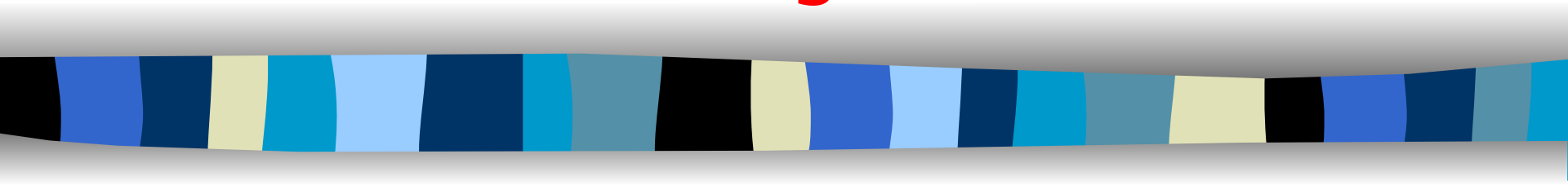
Sea Power and Security



NCC(SW) Patterson

United States Sea Power

- Sea Power as a concept means more than military power at sea.
- Sea Power describes a nation’s ability to protect it’s political, economic, and military interest’s through control of the sea.
- What are the four principal parts of sea power?
- Naval power, Ocean Science, Ocean Industry, Ocean commerce

Captain Alfred T. Mahan, USN

- Was the first to use the term sea power.
- Used in his principal work, The influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783, published in 1890.
- What are the six conditions required for a nation to have sea power:

- An advantageous geographical position
- Serviceable coastlines, abundant natural resources, and a favorable climate
- Extent of territory
- A population large enough to defend its territory
- A society with an aptitude for the sea and commercial enterprise
- A government with the influence to dominate the sea

Development of Sea Power

- After the Civil War the primary role of the Navy was as coastal defender and commerce raider.
- The US believed in national isolation.
- During WWII the effects aircraft, aircraft carriers, and radar meant we fought fewer battle with ship in sight of each other. Naval gunfire was only used for antiaircraft and missile defense and shore bombardment.

Development of Sea Power cont.

- Sea Power as we use it today is to reach political, economic, and military goals in times of peace and war.
- The seas are our lifelines. They are a barrier between nations, and a broad highway for commerce and huge supply of resources.
- Through out history, no country has ever become a world power without a strong foreign trade.

Development of Sea Power cont.

- Today we rely heavily on trade with our neighbors for raw materials.
- The US is not as independent as people think.
- We import no fewer than 77 resources to maintain our present economy.

Development of Sea Power cont.

- Our economy depends on waterborne commerce.
- The US, like all nations of the world, acknowledges freedom of the seas under international law.

The disruption of the sea lanes

- When fighting wars nations do whatever to cut commercial shipping lanes to prevent the enemy from receiving critical raw materials.
- Before WWI we were a quiet nation and stayed mostly to ourselves. During and after WWI we become the most industrial nation in the world.
- After WWII we become ever more industrialized.
- During the wars we need to keep our troops supplied. We shipped 97% of then supplies overseas.

The U.S. Navy's Responsibility in Sea Power

- Some questions that are commonly asked:
- Why do we have a Navy?
- What is the purpose of this deployment?
- Why are we spread out far and wide from our shores?
- To answer these questions you need to understand our mission:

- Remember what is the primary function of the Navy?

- Organize, Train, and Equip our forces for prompt and sustained combat operations at sea.

PRIMARY TASK

- Seek and destroy the enemy naval forces.
- Suppress enemy sea commerce
- Maintain general naval supremacy
- Control vital sea areas
- Protect vital sea areas.

The primary function of the Navy

- The Navy's business is to clear the way for the operating forces to accomplish their task, whatever it is.
- The Navy must drive the enemy's fighting forces off the high seas, out of the air, and across the seas.
- The Navy must block the enemy's sea-lanes and sink its merchant ships and transport.

The primary function of the Navy

- The Navy also provides forces for joint amphibious operations. It trains all forces assigned to these operations in amphibious warfare as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- The Navy joins with other services in defending the United States against air attack

The Navy's Mission

- The Navy must improve the ships and aircraft to keep up with the existing forces.
- Nuclear power is a big point for powering ships.
- The area of navigation is a high priority.
- Now with the development of long-range aircraft and ballistic missiles, the Navy's radius of action spans the world.

The Navy's Mission cont.

- Today, the Navy, with the Army and the Air Force, is a member of the National Military Establishment.
- Their mission is to be prepared to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations in support of national interest.
- You play an important part of the Navy's mission

Naval War Publication 1 and 3

- Definitions to remember:
- National Strategy
- Broad course of action designed to achieve national support of national interest.
- National Interest
- Conditions that are vital to our nations to pursue or protect

Naval War Publication 1 and 3

- National Objectives:
- Specific goals our nation seeks to advance, support, or to protect.
- Naval Strategy:
- Use of our Naval forces to achieve its Naval objective

Sea Control

- Total control of the seas for the free movement of all, is the first function of the Navy
- It means the control of set air, surface, and subsurface areas, when and where needed.
- Sea Control is crucial to national strategy.

Power Projection

- It is the ability to use sea power throughout the world in the timely and precise manner needed to accomplish a given goal.
- These operations include the tactical employment of carrier-based aircraft and the use of amphibious forces and naval gunfire support forces.

Support of Sea Power and Power Projection

- What three things are needed in order to carry out the functions previously mentioned?
- Strategic Nuclear deterrence – the effectiveness of ballistic missile provides the strongest deterrent
- Naval Presence – the Navy deploys operationally ready naval forces to various overseas locations through out the world.
- Security of the Sea Lanes of Communication – the success of forward naval presence depends on the Navy's ability to keep the sea lanes open.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Responsibility in Sea Power

- Our Navy evolved from the American Merchant Marine.
- The Navy first converted merchant marine vessel into fighting ship by placing guns on the decks.
- Until WWII, the officers and personnel trained in the merchant marine formed the most important manpower reserve for the Navy.
- The Merchant marines form an important part of the Sea Power of this country.

Merchant Marine Peacetime Mission

- The Merchant Marine today consist of all commercial oceangoing vessels flying the US flag.
- It is subject to unified control under the Merchant Administration during times of war.
- The term merchant marine refers to all these ships and their crews.

Merchant Marine Wartime Mission

- Transport essential materials and cargo.
- Resupply American and allied military forces overseas.
- Provide underway replenishment for wet or dry cargo and other direct services to Navy ships at sea
- Increase combatant naval forces by being armed to carry out convoy, antiaircraft, or antisubmarine duties.

The US Coast Guard Responsibility in Sea Power

- **The multimission nature of the Coast Guard makes it unique among the armed services of the US.**
- **It has an operational peacetime role and is the only US military service outside the Department of Defense.**
- **Also it is the oldest continuous seagoing service. What year was it established?**
- **1790**

The History of the Coast Guard

- The Revenue Marine was primarily a law enforcement agency.

- Although the original role of the service was law enforcement revenue cutters took part in almost every conflict.

The History of the US Coast Guard cont.

- In the mid-1800s, Congress set up the US lifesaving Service, consisting of stations scattered along US Coasts.
- The Lifesaving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service merged to form the US Coast Guard.
- The Coast Guard joined the Lighthouse Service and assumed reasonability for setting up and maintaining all navigation aids in US water.

Coast Guard Peacetime Mission

- **Enforcement of maritime laws and treaties**
- **Search and Rescue operations**
- **Enforcement of US drugs and contraband laws.**
- **Installation and maintenance of aids to navigation.**
- **Icebreaking operations that keep commercial vessel traffic moving in domestic waters and support scientific research in the Artic and Antarctica.**

Coast Guard Wartime Mission

- **The Coast Guard assumed the responsibilities of in-port safety and security and commercial vessel safety.**
- **During a wartime condition, the Coast Guard operates directly under the CNO.**
- **The CG assumes convoy duties as well as antisubmarine warfare missions.**
- **The air search and rescue section of the Coast Guard flies rescue missions.**

US Military Sealift Command (MSC) Responsibility in Sea Power

- In 1949, the US set up the Military Sealift Command MSC, by combining the sealift mission of the Naval and Army Transport Services.
- Today, the MSC is an operating within the DOD.
- MSC ships fall into two general classes, what are they?
- The nucleus fleet and privately owned ships under charter by MSC

MILITARY SEA LIFT COMMAND

- The nucleus fleet consist of government-owned ships and chartered tankers.
- All of these ships the title United States Naval Ships (USNS)

MSC Peacetime Mission

- In Peacetime the MSC relies heavily on the US merchant marine.
- What percentage of cargo is handled by privately owned ships?
- Nearly 25%

MSC Wartime Mission

- **MSC ships used in moving troops and supplies to the war zone.**
- **These ships provide underway replenishment to allow Navy ships to stay on station.**
- **They carry Navy personnel to handle areas such as weapons and communications to allow the civilian crew to continue its normal work.**

Summery

- Sea Power is a nation’s ability to use the oceans for its political, economic, and military interest to achieve its national objectives.
- Today, the US depends on other nations for many goods and commodities needed to keep the economy strong and to keep people working.
- The US merchant marine, MSC, US Coast Guard, and the US Navy make up the essential ingredients for US sea power.
- The mission of the Navy is to be prepared to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations.

Summery cont.

- To accomplish its mission, the Navy must perform two main functions- sea control and power projection.
- The Navy has three main functions: strategic nuclear deterrence, naval presence, and security of the sea lines of communications.